

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

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DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:HGHAGERTY:CW

APPROVED BY PM/SAS:JLADD

EUR/IB - MR DURKEE

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PM/SAS - MR SMITH

DOD/DSAA:MR. BETTELEY

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R 171420Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SP

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN FMS CATEGORY FOR SPAIN

REFS: (A) MADRID 2007 (B) STATE 43468

1. WE AGREE THAT THE GREEK ORIENTATION OF REF (B) LEAVES QUESTIONS UNANSWERED RE SPAIN; SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED WITH FOUCHE DURING HAGERTY VISIT TO MADRID EARLY APRIL, AND FOLLOWING IS OUR EFFORT TO MEET YOUR PROBLEM.

2. AS YOU KNOW, SHIFTING SPAIN FROM CATEGORY A TO CATEGORY B -- AND THIS ONLY FOR MAJOR CAPITAL OR END ITEMS (LIKE F-4S) -- IS A DEVICE, WITHIN THE USG, TO ENSURE THAT THE DEPT OF STATE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW FMS AND RELATED REQUESTS, LETTERS OF OFFER, ETC. WHICH HAVE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS BEFORE THEY ARE COMMUNICATED DIRECTLY TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. THE SHIFT IN PROCEDURES HAS NO PEJORATIVE OR PUNITIVE
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IMPLICATIONS. WITH AN ACTIVE NEGOTIATION UNDERWAY TO

CONTINUE OUR USE OF BASES IN SPAIN AND WITH DEFINITE LIMITS ON THE KINDS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE QUID PRO QUO WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MUSTER TO SUPPORT A NEW AGREEMENT, IT IS INCUMBENT ON US NOT TO OVERLOOK ITEMS OF POTENTIAL QUID VALUE, HOWEVER MARGINAL THEY MAY SEEM.

3. SPANISH HERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED OF CHANGE IN PROCEDURES, WHICH SIMPLY INVOLVES SENDING REQUESTS TO STATE (PM/SAS) AS WELL AS TO DOD. SHOULD GOS OFFICIALS ASK, THE CHANGE IS EXPLAINABLE SIMPLY AS A BUREAUCRATIC SHIFT AIMED AT ENSURING THAT THE DEPT OF STATE IS AWARE OF THE ROUTINE FLOW OF TRAFFIC REGARDING ARMS SALES, DATA, EXCHANGE, AND INQUIRIES BECAUSE OF THEIR POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP TO ARRANGEMENTS WE HOPE TO WORK OUT FOR THE FUTURE. SPANISH CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE DUAL REQUESTS (TO STATE AND DOD) CREATE NO DELAY AND NO ADDITIONAL COST SAVE THE POSTAGE. WE HOPE THIS WILL NOT POSE PROBLEMS FOR SPANISH GOVERNMENT, BUT IN ANY EVENT WE MUST RESERVE THE RIGHT OURSELVES TO ESTABLISH AND, IF NECESSARY, CHANGE FMS PROCEDURES AS WE FIND APPROPRIATE TO OUR INTERESTS. KISSINGER

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